



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**43rd ANNUAL KIWANIS INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL
IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**

Festival Celebrates "America's Past, Present & Future"

ST. MARYS, GA – The Kiwanis Club of St. Marys will present its Independence Day Celebration in Downtown St. Marys. The 4th of July Festival is one of the area's most popular and well attended events, as attendees are attracted from all over Georgia and points up and down the coast. This is one of those events that grows a bit with each passing year yet still maintains authentic hometown-charm.

This year's parade theme is "America's Past, Present & Future" and local Girl Scouts (past, present & future) will serve as grand marshals. The Girl Scouts organization will soon celebrate 100 years of service and this is a great centennial kick-off for local scouts.

The festival features a full day of events including 5K and 10K Runs, a Themed Parade, Over 100 Vendors, Incredible Musical Entertainment, Watermelon Seed Spitting & Eating Contests, and Children's Activities. The evening culminates with a 20 minute FIREWORKS display over the St. Marys River.

Advance registration is encouraged for the 5K and 10K runs, which start at 7 a.m., and is mandatory for the 10 a.m. parade. Vendors and activities are available beginning at 9 a.m. and continue throughout the day. The fireworks are scheduled to start after dusk.

The St. Marys Waterfront Park and the Tilden Norris Marsh Walk both offer great bird's eye views of the fireworks but for an on-the-water experience, tickets are available for the annual Kiwanis river cruise. Tickets for the 7:00 p.m. cruise are \$20 per person and are available at the St. Marys Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Kingsland Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Festival organizers are calling for Sponsors, Vendors, Parade Participants, and Runners to register for the event.

Additional information about this event, including registration forms, can be found at www.smkiwanis.com or by contacting the Kiwanis Club of St. Marys president, Jeremy Jacobs, at Jeremy.jacobs@amerisbank.com or 912.674.0848.

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